

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 161518
ORIGIN EA-12

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AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ISO-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:DLFIELD:EVC
APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY
S/NM:RSLUTZ
EA/RA-PMU:MEILAND
DOD/ISA:DEIRICH (DRAFT)
DSAA:LBRIESKE (DRAFT)
EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS

-----036341 242045Z /73

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0627

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161518

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MASS, BM

SUBJECT:NARCOTICS

REF: A) RANGOON 2018; B) STATE 103133; C) RANGOON 516;
D) CINCPAC 170515Z FEB; E) 1977 STATE 307463;
F) STATE 130562

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES AND IS FULLY AWARE OF CONSIDER-
ATIONS COVERED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF REFTEL (A).

2. GIVEN THE APPARENT DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG SENIOR
GUB MILITARY OFFICIALS ON APPROPRIATE EMPLOYMENT OF INC-
PROVIDED HELICOPTERS (PARA 2(C) OF REFTEL (A)), HOWEVER,
WE PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL THE BURMESE HAVE RESOLVED THIS
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INTERNAL MATTER BEFORE EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF INC-
PROVIDED CIVILIAN TRAINING.

3. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT THE CONCEPT OF KEEPING
MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS SEPARATE
MAY BE DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT. FOLLOWING ARE BASIC
ELEMENTS OF THIS POLICY. FIRST, NARCOTICS CONTROL ASSIST-

ANCE MUST BE CHANNELLED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL (INC) PROGRAM. THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THIS POLICY IS ASSISTANCE OF A MORE GENERAL NATURE WHICH CONTAINS A

NARCOTICS CONTROL-RELATED ELEMENT (SUCH AS AID'S MAI CHAEM INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PLANNED IN NORTHERN THAILAND). SECOND, WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION CANNOT BE PROVIDED UNDER THE INC PROGRAM. WE ALSO DOUBT THAT TRAINING RELATED TO IMPROVING THE BURMA ARMY'S COMBAT CAPABILITIES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CONGRESS UNDER THIS PROGRAM. THIRD, SECURITY ASSISTANCE (MAP, FMS, AND IMET) CANNOT BE PROVIDED FOR EXCLUSIVELY NARCOTICS CONTROL PURPOSES.

4. THE DUAL ROLE OF THE BURMA ARMY AS BOTH A COUNTER-INSURGENCY AND A NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION FORCE, OF COURSE, COMPLICATES THIS SITUATION. IN APPLICATION, HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM ARISES WITH REGARD TO GRANT ASSISTANCE BY THE USG, WHICH MUST BE CHANNELLED THROUGH THE INC PROGRAM (OR AID) FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL, AND MUST BE CHANNELLED THROUGH DOD FOR NON-NARCOTICS MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND ANY WEAPONS OR AMMUNITION.

5. WHEN THE BURMA ARMY PURCHASES EQUIPMENT, WEAPONS, AMMUNITION OR TRAINING NO POLICY DIFFICULTIES ARISE, ALTHOUGH EVEN USG SALES COULD BECOME AN ISSUE TO BE USED

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BY CRITICS OF THE GUB AND U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THAT GOVERNMENT. IN SHORT, HOW THE BURMA ARMY ULTIMATELY USES PURCHASED EQUIPMENT OR TRAINING IS NOT AS SENSITIVE AS USG GRANT ASSISTANCE.

6. ALTHOUGH IN THEORY IMET COULD BE USED FOR TRAINING BURMA ARMY PILOTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO FLY INC-PROVIDED AIRCRAFT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE ORIGINAL IMET PROPOSALS FOR INTERMEDIATE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL TRAINING PUT FORWARD IN REFTELS (C) AND (D) ARE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR REINSTITUTING THIS PROGRAM. TRAINING COURSES RECOMMENDED BY THE EMBASSY AND CINCPAC WOULD IN ANY CASE EXPOSE GUB OFFICERS TO U.S. ARMY AIRMOBILE DOCTRINE AND TECHNIQUES.

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